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## BRIEF MENTION

## OLD TESTAMENT

AALDERS, G. C. *De Profeten des Ouden Verbonds*. Kampen: J. H. Kok, 1919. 288 pages.

This is an introduction to the study of prophecy by a Dutch scholar. The scope of his work may be seen from the titles of some of his chapters: e.g., the concept of prophecy, the fact of the divine prophetic revelation, ways and means of this revelation, the spirit of God the source of the prophetic revelation, the miracles of the prophets, the form of the prophetic preaching, the predictions of the prophets, the fulfilment of these predictions, the self-consciousness of the prophets, the attestation of prophecy, the unity of prophecy, and analogies among other peoples. The book is the work of a sober-minded scholar well acquainted with the literature of his subject. The point of view of his discussion may be indicated by the fact that he stands for the unity of the Book of Isaiah and for the exilic origin of the Book of Daniel. Anyone who seeks an antidote to such books as my *Prophet and His Problems* would do well to read this Dutch volume. There is much useful information in it, but the author has no confidence in the historical method of interpretation represented by most modern Old Testament scholars.

J. M. P. S.

COOKE, G. A., *The Book of Joshua in the Revised Version*. With Introduction and Notes. [Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges.] Cambridge: University Press, 1918. xxxvi+232 pages. 2s. 6d.

This commentary is by the successor to the late Dr. Driver in the Regius professorship of Hebrew at Oxford. He carries on the tradition for cautious and conservative scholarship established by his predecessor. Joshua is a book much concerned with geographical and topographical matters, and upon these Dr. Cooke has done excellent work. The best part of the work is the commentary proper, where much information of a detailed sort is conveyed in lucid style. The introduction to the commentary deals with four topics, viz., (1) "Contents and Literary Structure," (2) "The Sources," (3) "The History Contained in the Book," (4) "The Religion of Israel in the Time of Joshua." In the third and fourth sections one feels a lack. The discussion does not come to close quarters with the problems of the history of the period. Of course in a popular and elementary commentary like the Cambridge Bible we cannot expect to find elaborate and thoroughgoing treatment of details, but the reader ought to be given the main outlines of the important historical problems raised by the literature under examination. What those problems are here may be suggested by reference to Burney's excellent treatment of the history of this period in his commentary on Judges. In the section on religion about all that is done is to draw certain inferences as to the nature of the religion of Moses, inferences that in the nature of the case must be very uncertain. The Book of Joshua does not furnish sufficient data for a statement of the religion of Israel in Joshua's time. Nor is the time of Joshua known with sufficient definiteness to make it possible for us to supplement Joshua by other sources of information. All that can be done on the basis of the Book of Joshua is to formulate the religious ideas of the various literary sources of which the book is composed and to discriminate in this formulation between old institutions and ideas

surviving in the documents and the newer points of view characteristic of the actual makers of the documents. The Book of Joshua is a hard piece of literature to interpret, but it has considerable to yield to the interpreter who handles it without gloves.

J. M. P. S.

DAVIDSON, A. B., *The Book of Job*. With Notes, Introduction, and Appendix.

Adapted to the text of the Revised Version, with some supplementary notes by H. C. O. Lanchester. [Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges.] Cambridge: University Press, 1918. lxxi+344 pages. 5s.

The excellent commentary on Job by the late A. B. Davidson was well deserving of the new edition it has been given by the editors of the Cambridge Bible. Dr. Lanchester has done his work well. He very properly regarded his task not as that of re-writing Davidson's commentary but rather as that of recording the main elements of the newer knowledge that has come to light since 1884, when this commentary was first written. In the new edition the Revised Version has supplanted the Authorized, and a larger and clearer type has been used. This change of type, with the addition of some new subject-matter, has increased the size of the commentary by 55 pages. The chief modifications by the new editor are (1) the addition of a brief section in the Introduction on the text and a list of books; (2) a different treatment of the third cycle of the debate, involving a reassignment of materials there, resulting in the recovery of Zophar's speech; (3) a different explanation of the attitude of the author toward the problem of suffering which finds the significance of the book in the Prologue and not in the speeches of Yahweh; and (4) recognition in many places of the views of recent interpreters. This edition should give the commentary a new lease of life. Would it not, however, have been well to have kept Davidson pretty much unchanged and to have recorded diverging views with clear indication of their non-Davidson character?

J. M. P. S.

SKINNER, J., *The Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chaps. xl-lxvi*. In the Revised

Version, with Introduction and Notes. [Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges.] Cambridge: University Press, 1917. lxxiv+289 pages. 3s. 6d.

Dr. Skinner has here brought an earlier edition up to date by substituting the Revised Version for the Authorized and by taking account of the literature of recent years. In the Introduction he canvasses the various problems and interpretations arising out of the study of the book. His own positions are well defended and persuasively presented. He accepts current views throughout, venturing upon no innovations. The book is found to consist of two main sections, viz., (1) chapters xl-lv, of which chapters xl-xlvi were written between 546 and 539 B.C. and chapters xlix-lv in the interval between the capture of Babylon by Cyrus and the issue of his decree permitting the return of the Jews to Palestine, and (2) chaps. lvi-lxvi, some of which may have come from the early part of the first century after the Exile, though the bulk of them belong to the close of that century. As to the relation of the Servant Songs to their context, Skinner holds that they were an earlier production by the author of chapters xl-lv, which he himself incorporated in his later work. In an appendix the more recent theories as to the significance of the Servant passages are carefully expounded and critically examined. For himself Dr. Skinner rejects the purely